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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC PTER ASEC RP
SUBJECT: TRAVEL WARNING:  THE PHILIPPINES
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¶1. The State Department warns U.S. citizens of the
risks of travel to the southern Philippine islands of
Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago and urges extreme
caution if traveling there. This Travel Warning
replaces the Travel Warning dated February 13, 2008, and
updates information on continuing threats due to
terrorist and insurgent activities.

¶2. Travelers should exercise extreme caution if
traveling in the central and western portions of the
island of Mindanao, as well as in the islands of the
Sulu Archipelago. Regional terrorist groups have
carried out bombings resulting in injuries and death.
Since August 2008, there have been sporadic clashes
between lawless groups and the Philippine Armed Forces
in the Mindanao provinces of North Cotabato, Lanao del
Sur and Lanao del Norte, as well as the Sulu
Archipelago. Kidnap for ransom gangs are active and
have targeted foreigners. U.S. Government employees
must seek special permission for travel to Mindanao or
the Sulu Archipelago. Travelers to these areas should
remain vigilant and avoid congregating in public areas.
Some foreigners who reside in or visit Mindanao and the
Sulu Archipelago hire their own security.

¶3. The Department of State remains concerned about the
continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence
against Americans and interests throughout the world.
The Worldwide Caution,
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/p a_1161.html
, reminds Americans that terrorism can occur anywhere.

¶4. The Department strongly encourages Americans in the
Philippines to register with the Consular Section of the
U.S. Embassy in Manila through the State Department's
travel registration website,
https://travelregistration.state.gov. The U.S. Embassy

is located at: 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila,
Philippines, tel. 63-2-301-2000. The American Citizen
Services (ACS) section's fax number is 63-2-301-2017 and
the ACS web page is at
http://manila.usembassy.gov/wwwh3004.html.

¶5. For information on general crime and security
issues, U.S. citizens should also consult the Department
of State's Country Specific Information for the
Philippines and the Worldwide Caution, located at
http://travel.state.gov/. American citizens may also
obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by
calling 1-888-407-4747 from the United States and
Canada, or 202-501-4444 from overseas.

¶6.   Minimize Considered
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